

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Raised Bill No. 824 AAC Marine Dealers, Marine Surveyors, and Yacht Brokers.**

Chairmen Meyer and Roy;

Distinguished members of the Environment Committee, the Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) urges you to support **Raised Bill No. 824 AAC Marine Dealers, Marine Surveyors, and Yacht Brokers.** The Recreational Marine Industry in Connecticut has over 450 businesses employing 10,000 hard working people, all across the state. Boating is a significant part of our state's tourism efforts and is responsible for the collection of a significant amount of sales and use taxes.

This bill is a Department of Environmental Protection bill that addresses some necessary statutory changes to definitions and the issuance and uses of marine dealer registration numbers. These numbers, issued by DEP and long used by marine dealers and marine engine manufacturers, are important business tools in their daily operations. Like automobile dealer plates there are specific criteria and requirements for their uses and who may apply for them. Any powered vessel used for navigation must be legally registered or documented somewhere prior to use. Launching an unregistered power vessel is a violation which complicates the job of a Marine Surveyor when contracted to inspect and sea trial a prospective vessel for sale by the buyer.

This bill adds Marine Surveyors to the allowable number applicants and specifies the parameters of their use by them. It also defines the qualifying criteria that one must possess to be considered a credentialed Marine Surveyor and thereby have the ability to apply for on dealer number for professional uses. It also specifies the proper paperwork necessary to the permitted uses of the number and the record keeping requirements to ensure that there are no instances of misuse of the numbers. Additionally there are some changes to the statutes with references to Yacht Brokers that better define their proof of business situations. This is a necessary upgrade to this section and it's passage has been overdue

We urge you to support **Raised Bill No. 824 AAC Marine Dealers, Marine Surveyors, and Yacht Brokers.** It is an important business tool and needs your prompt attention and consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues and please know that we are available to discuss them at any time.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
Executive Director

Linda A. Kowalski
The Kowalski Group